

THE WEATHER

For District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, generally cloudy and probably rain; slightly warmer; southerly winds.

The



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APPALLING SEA DISASTER

A Steamer Sinks in a Storm Off Cape Hatteras.

THE RESCUED ARE CRAZED

Terrible Sufferings of Those Who Got Off in the Boats—Maddened and Killed by Thirst and Hunger. Only Four Survive—Seventy-eight Persons Perish.

New York, March 18.—A terrible tale of shipwreck, death and human suffering came from the sea and was told yesterday upon the arrival of the schooner *Hilda* at Perth Amboy.

The French line steamer *Ville de St. Nazaire*, which sailed from this port March 6, bound for the West Indies, foundered and seventy-eight persons in all were lost. Of her eighty-two passengers and crew only four are known to have been saved. These arrived here yesterday on the *Hilda*, by whom they were rescued after floating about in an open boat on the Atlantic for a week without food or water. Forty-two persons left the ill-fated *Ville de St. Nazaire* in the boat, but thirty-eight of them either went mad or died of exposure.

The steamer *Ville de St. Nazaire* left this port on March 6, bound for the West Indies. She was one of the smaller vessels of the French line, and had been engaged in the West India trade for years. She was one of the first to come here when the line between New York and the West Indies was established. The steamer encountered severe weather on March 7, while off Hatteras. Tremendous seas swept over her. She rolled and pitched. Great waves bore away the hatch coverings. Floods of water found their way through the gratings to the engine-room and extinguished the fires. The vessel was unable to keep her headway, being water-logged. Capt. Jaquesneau gave the order to man the four boats.

In the haste to leave the vessel it was impossible to get provisions or water to last more than a day. Of the four boats only one has been heard from. It is believed that the other three were lost.

The largest boat contained thirty-eight persons. It had practically no provisions. It was tossed about upon the rough seas for seven days and seven nights, and for six of those days and nights the passengers were without food or drink. Their sufferings were most intense. The sea calmed and the survivors of this ocean tragedy are hardly yet able to give a connected story of the last twelve days. One of them, Capt. Berri, the inspector general of the French line, is confined to his room in the hotel Martin. His story is a narrative of privation and hardship such as is seldom heard in the annals of the sea. The other survivors are on board the *Normandie* and the *Ville de Brest*, a sister ship of the ill-fated vessel.

Telling of how the wreck occurred the survivors say that on Sunday, March 7 the ship began to plunge heavily in the seas, waves burst over the deck in torrents, and early on Sunday night the flood invaded the fire-room and clouds of hissing steam that arose from the hatches told that the fire had been drowned. An attempt was made to leave the ship to, but water was bursting over the deck in such torrents and pouring down the hatchways so fast that Capt. Jaquesneau, seeing that his vessel was on the point of foundering, thought then only of saving the crew by means of the boats.

Such passengers as had been below before the fire were drowned came hurrying on deck, and clung there mindless of the drenching storm of spray that came flying over the ship. The night was as black as pitch. The survivors could make out the dark figures of the seamen struggling to get the boats overboard and heard the crashes as boat after boat was dashed into splinters against the side.

And then at last was the successful though hurried launch of the other boats and the crowding into them of passengers and crew. And now too early was the ship abandoned, for those who reached her think that she pitched under a few minutes after the last boat was shoved clear.

The boat which Capt. Berri commanded Office and home fixtures and repair work. C. E. Finch, 520 10th st. n.w. 'Phone, 443.

RECEIVE THE NEWS CALMLY

The Greeks Have Long Anticipated the Powers' Action.

A CRETAN SCHOONER SUNK

Sent to the Bottom by a Shot From an Austrian Gunboat—It Had on Board Munitions of War and a Number of Cretan Insurgents. Fired on the Warship.

Athens, March 18.—The announcement by M. Skouzes that the blockade would begin on Sunday was received calmly. The chamber and the people generally are resigned to this action on the part of the powers, believing that the attempted imposition of autonomy on the Cretans will prove futile and that the island will ultimately fall to Greece.

A number of prominent Cretans who are now in Athens state that their property has been destroyed by Muslims and that they will never return to the island. They could never have the slightest confidence in the novel regime that is proposed by the powers, and believe that an autonomous government initiated by force of arms would never be self-sustained and that neither end of it would be worse than the first.

The Greek troops in the island are in a position, so far as supplies are concerned, to hold out for an indefinite period, notwithstanding a blockade. As soon as the Greek government learned that it was the intention of the powers to blockade the island large quantities of provisions, munitions of war, medicines and all supplies necessary for an army in the field were hurried forward.

During the past week great quantities of these supplies have been successfully transferred to the troops.

Greek sailors, than whom there are no better along the shores of the Mediterranean, are confident that the blockade will not prove effective against their superior knowledge of the coasts of Crete. They claim that they can, and will, easily run the blockade and land whatever cargoes they carry.

The news of the sinking of a Greek schooner by an Austrian warship in Cretan waters caused the greatest excitement and indignation here, which was not tempered by the information that the crew of the vessel escaped. The news perhaps voice the opinion of the public when they denounce the action of the warship as a crime against civilization by the nations who claim to lead the world in humanity.

The latest denunciation is heard on every hand of all who had to do with the sinking of the vessel.

A CRETAN SCHOONER SUNK.

Sent to the Bottom by a Shot From an Austrian Gunboat.

Vienna, March 18.—The government has received advice that the Austrian gunboat *Sebenico* has sunk a Greek schooner with a cargo of munitions of war and a number of Cretan insurgents on board. The *Sebenico*, under the orders of the British squadron in Cretan waters, was patrolling off Cape Dia, Crete, when the schooner was sighted. The schooner was hailed by the gunboat, and the insurgents on board, in reply, opened fire upon the *Sebenico*, whereupon the latter turned her guns on the schooner and sunk her.

The crew of the schooner swam ashore. None of them were injured.

London, March 18.—A dispatch from Rome, which the Daily News will publish tomorrow, states that Greece will protest against the firing upon and sinking of the schooner. She will claim that the action of the Austrian warship was arbitrary. The place where she sank the schooner not being directly under the protection of the powers, and will also protest that the warship was not warranted in firing upon the vessel, as there was no blockade declared or established at the time.

The dispatch adds that the incident is regarded in Rome as being significant, inasmuch as it is considered proof that the concert of the powers is perfect. This had the effect of causing a rise in prices at the Bourse. It is reported that the insurgents refuse to accept autonomy and demand that Crete be annexed by Greece.

FIRE ON THE WARSHIP.

She Then Trained Her Guns on the Schooner.

Canea, March 18.—It is learned here that the schooner sunk by the Austrian warship *Sebenico*, was landing stores when she was approached by the warship. The latter sent boats to intercept the schooner's boats and forbid them to approach nearer to the shore.

There were a large number of insurgents about the place where the schooner intended to land her cargo, and when they saw the boats leaving the warship they divined what their intention was and poured a lively fusillade in their direction with rifles and cannons. The boats, however, were out of range of the guns on shore and no one was hurt. Accounts differ as to whether the schooner fired or not, but a majority of them concur in stating that she did not.

At any rate, the *Sebenico* quickly trained some of her guns on the insurgents ashore and very quickly silenced their fire. At the same time other of her guns were fired at the schooner, which sank shortly thereafter.

The Austrians here are filled with the greatest resentment at what they term the insolence of the Greeks in daring to fire upon the Austrian flag.

THE BLOCKADE OF CRETE.

Formal Notification of Its Existence to Be Made.

Canea, March 18.—The admirals commanding the fleets of the powers here have called to the representatives of their respective governments in Constantinople that the blockade of the island will be inaugurated on Sunday. Warships will make a cruise around the island, delivering to the inhabitants of the chief ports proclamations declaring that the powers intend to establish autonomy in the island, and the blockade will begin on the day specified.

It has been decided that the foreign

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THE RECONCILIATION



THE PRESIDENT: "That's a fine boy you've got there, Mr. Reed."

troops who are to be landed to carry out the purposes of the powers shall be located at different places. The French troops will be placed near Sitta and Spinalunga, the British at Cudia, the Russian at Resimo, and the German at Suda Bay and Canea. It has not been stated where the Austrian and Italian forces shall be placed.

MISERY AMONG THE TURKS.

Calling Out the Reserves Has Caused Much Disorder.

London, March 18.—The Constantinople correspondent of the Morning Post says that a great council of ministers, ex-ministers, grand viziers and other exalted officers will be held to consider a new scheme of the sultan for the administration of the empire. He also says that Jemaladdin Efendi, the short-lived minister, has been ordered by the government to resign his office for extraordinary measures.

The ports are missing troops on the Asian frontier. All the Masidi reserves have been summoned to join colors. Extreme sickness and distress prevail. The population is greatly exasperated because of the universal calling of the reserves to arms, and disorders among the peasantry are threatened. The Armenian Patriarch, despairing of the port's promises ever being fulfilled, resigned his office, but the sultan refused to accept it, and promised that the reserves would be made to the Armenians. His majesty asked, however, that the granting of these concessions be delayed until after Easter.

GLADSTONE SPEAKS FREELY.

His Utterances on the Subject of Crete Are Very Plain.

London, March 18.—Under the title "The Eastern Crisis," a sixteen page pamphlet by Mr. Gladstone, will be issued tomorrow. The pamphlet is in the form of a letter from Mr. Gladstone, addressed to the Duke of Westminster, in which the ex-prime minister proceeds to say: "Events in crowds have been occurring in the east at short intervals for the past few years of such a nature as to stir our common humanity to its innermost recesses and to lodge an appeal from official to personal conscience. Until the most recent dates these transactions have seemed to awaken no echo save in England, but now light has flashed upon Western Europe and an uneasy consciousness that nations as well as cabinets are concerned has taken a strong hold upon the public mind."

"Later massacres in Armenia have occurred upon a scale of intensity and in a diversity of their wickedness beyond all modern, if not all historical, experience. All this has been done under the eyes of the six great powers who are represented at the Porte by ambassadors and thought their feeble verbiage a sufficient counterpoise to instruments of death, shame and torture, provided that in framing it they all chimed in with one another."

The letter then goes on to review the Eastern question since 1876. Mr. Gladstone recalls the fact that his ministry in 1880 organized a European concert to procure the fulfillment of the treaty of 1878 in regard to Montenegro and Greece. The forces of moral suasion had been exhausted, and a squadron of warships of the six powers had assembled on the Montenegrin or Albanian coast. It was soon found that to several powers a "concert of Europe" meant toy demonstrations, which were not intended to pass for reality. "We did not waste any time to galvanize the corpse into life," Mr. Gladstone continues, "but framed a plan for the seizure of an important port of the sultan's dominions. We found as our principal support the wise and brave Alexander II, who then reigned in Russia. The effect was perfect. There was no war in Europe, though this bugbear would doubtless have been used had our proceedings passed beyond privacy. Our plan became known to the sultan, and without a single difficulty Montenegro obtained her present considerable extension and Thessaly was added to Greece later."

"It is time to speak with freedom. At this moment two great states, with a European population of 150,000,000, are under the government of two young men each bearing the title of emperor, but who in one case is wholly without knowledge or experience and in the other case has only such knowledge and experience, in truth limited enough, as have excited much astonishment and some consternation."

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tion when an inkling of them has been given to the world. In the concert of the powers these powers fight steadily against freedom. But why is our government pinned to their apron?"

Mr. Gladstone then reviews the history of Greece and Crete and says: "We have before us a David facing six Goliaths." He argues that Ottoman rule in Crete is a thing of yesterday, but Crete was a part of Greece and the Cretan people were part of Greek people 3,000 years ago.

"Nor have their moral and human ties ever broken or relaxed," he said, "and years and centuries will come when this had dream of Ottoman dominion has passed from Europe that the union will still subsist."

AUSTRIAN CONSUL ATTACKED.

Moslem Fanatic at Uskub Assaulted Him With a Knife.

Vienna, March 18.—It is now learned that the protest made by the government to the Porte relates to an assault made by a Moslem upon the Austrian consul at Uskub and a companion. It appears that the Russian and Austrian consuls with a friend, an Italian subject, were sitting in a cafe, when a Moslem rushed in with a knife in his hand and attacked the Austrian consul and tried to stab him.

The consul repulsed his assailant, who then turned upon the Italian and stabbed him in the side, wounding him seriously. The Austrian consul was not hurt.

MRS. RUIZ TELLS HER STORY.

Chairman Hitt, of the House Committee, Greatly Interested.

Mrs. Ruiz, the wife of Dr. Ruiz, the American citizen who was murdered in a Cuban prison, had a most satisfactory interview with Chairman Hitt, of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House, yesterday. The interview lasted an hour, and Mrs. Ruiz went over the whole story of her wrongs in detail at the request of Mr. Hitt. He questioned her carefully on the point of the American citizenship of Dr. Ruiz and her own citizenship, and the circumstances of the imprisonment and death of her husband. Mr. Hitt seemed pleased with Mrs. Ruiz and stated after the interview that he found her a most intelligent and refined woman, and that he believed her claim to be a just one that should receive immediate attention by the State Department.

Mrs. Ruiz has also had an interview with Chairman Davis, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was equally satisfactory to her and her friends. Senator Davis also believes thoroughly in the justice of her claims. He made a most emphatic statement as to the right of citizenship of an American, no matter how long he may have lived on foreign soil. The idea has been suggested that the rights of citizenship are lost in such a case, but Senator Davis says that this is preposterous. He will urge the State Department to take immediate action in Mrs. Ruiz' case.

In the short time that Mrs. Ruiz has been in this country she has now had interviews with the President, the Secretary of State, and the chairman of both foreign committees, all of which have been entirely satisfactory. It is said that she is much pleased with the interest taken in her story and that she believes that her husband's wrongs will be speedily redressed. She is in much better health and spirits than when she arrived in this city a week ago, and is beginning to think Washington a delightful place to live in. The little Ruiz children are also very happy. They take long drives through the city and are enjoying the change of scene from their Cuban home hugely.

AGAINST JAPAN'S INTRIGUE

The Foreign Office of Hawaii Issues an Important Document.

A Call by Minister Hatch and Attorney General Smith on Secretary Sherman.

Daily reports are being received from Hawaii which, while not affecting the representatives of the island here so far as the public can see, may perhaps be at the bottom of the unusual activity in matters relating to annexation. It has not escaped the diplomatic eye that three or four attempts have already been made by Japanese to colonize the islands, in some cases by so-called laborers, and in others by an intelligent directive class. The value of these developments is that Japan is the nation which has looked with jealousy on the idea of annexation to the United States, and this offers the presumption that there is official method in the recent movement to Hawaii of bodies of Japanese under and without agents.

The friends of annexation are also of the opinion that some official influence is at work spreading broadcast the idea that the Dole government is bankrupt, and that therefore, considering the economic conduct of affairs by President Dole, the islands would be a most undesirable acquisition for the United States.

It is not known whether these considerations had anything to do with the call which was made on Mr. Sherman, Secretary of State, yesterday by Minister Hatch and Attorney General William Owen Smith, of the Hawaiian Republic. They, however, laid before the Secretary the financial condition of the government, the national debt of which amounts at this time to only \$4,000,000. Mr. Sherman was also given a copy of other statistics issued under the auspices of the department of public affairs, compiled in 1896, and practically up to date. The interesting fact is stated that the \$14,000,000 business done by the republic in 1895; \$13,000,000 was done with the United States; and other facts were laid before the department to counteract the reports adverse to the little republic.

The imports in 1895 amounted to \$5,339,785.04.

Of this \$4,121,920.22 came from the Pacific ports of the United States, and \$894,399.16 from the Atlantic ports; a total of \$4,516,319.38, leaving but \$1,167,698.16 for every other nation. The fact that the country has commercial relations with.

New Dry Docks Stood the Test.

New York, March 18.—The new dry dock which was recently completed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, successfully stood the test of docking the monitor Puritan. Though the Puritan is the heaviest vessel ever floated in the Navy, it caused a sinking of only one-sixteenth of an inch in the immense structure. The new dock is the largest on this continent. It is 670 feet long, 151 feet wide, and has 29 feet draught of water; 3,000,000 feet of saved lumber were used in its construction, and the cost to the Navy was \$370,000.

Fighting in South America.

Montevideo, March 18.—A battle occurred yesterday in the province of Paysandu between large bodies of government troops and insurgents. The total losses on both sides were 1,000 men. It is not stated which side was victorious.

Deaths of a Day.

Capt. Alexander Adams, a retired Army officer, died in Chicago yesterday.

Dr. Arnold Schott, in Philadelphia, yesterday, aged sixty-nine years.

James Blair, a millionaire, aged ninety years, at Scranton, Pa., last evening.

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DEATH AND MISERY

The Mississippi Leaves Destruction in Its Wake.

A MIGHTY RUSH OF WATER

Many More Lives Lost in the Great Flood.

THE RIVER STILL RISING

People Deserting Their Homes and Flying From the Rushing Waters to Safety in the Highlands—Heroic Men Working Day and Night to Rescue the Unfortunates—Three Thousand Refugees Are Now in Memphis—Terrible Suffering of the Homeless People From Cold, Hunger and Exposure.

St. Louis, Mo., March 18.—Alarming reports of a constant increase in the volume of water in the lower river are received here. Rain has fallen over a large section of the lower Mississippi basin for twenty-four hours, and at many points where levees held back the flood by only a few inches' margin there will surely be disastrous breaks.

At Cairo, Ill., at noon, the river was only 1.9 feet below the high-water mark of 1883. The levees around the large drainage district north of that city still held, but were in danger. Should they give way Cairo would become an island, with railway tracks the only barriers against the flood.

The Cotton Belt track to Bird's Point was eighteen inches above the water this morning.

In southeastern Missouri and northern Arkansas the country is overflowed and many lives are reported lost. Fortunately the St. Francis river carries off the surplus water, and unless there is a sudden rise the worst is over there.

A St. Louis cotton factor received a telegram this afternoon from his agent at Modoc, Ark., south of Helena, stating that the water was within a few inches of the top of the levee, with the river rising.

The people were warned and fled to the hills. The flood has already done great damage. Steamboat men here say that the crisis point is reached, and that unless there is subsidence within twenty-four hours the gravest consequences will follow.

BRAVE RESCUERS' WORK ON.

Many Harrowing Stories Told of Suffering and Death.

Memphis, Tenn., March 18.—The work of rescuing the people in the flooded districts is being carried on night and day, and this morning half a dozen steamers brought to Memphis over 1,000 refugees. The steamboat men tell some harrowing stories of suffering and death. One woman who was rescued from an Indian mound, fifteen miles west of here, held in her arms a dead infant that had perished from cold and hunger. Another family of four, when rescued, related that two small children were drowned in sight of their helpless parents.

Islands Nos. 49, 37, 36 and 34, in the Mississippi River are completely submerged and the inhabitants, to the number of about 600, have abandoned their homes.

Rain began to fall here yesterday afternoon and at noon today there had been no cessation of the downpour. The river now marks 36.6. The levees are standing the strain much better than was expected, but a break is liable to occur at any moment.

ANOTHER LEVEE BREAKS.

The River Still Rising and More Havoc Anticipated.

Memphis, Tenn., March 18.—A levee near Caruthersville, Mo., broke this afternoon, but whether damage was done is not yet known. Private reports are that it was simply a break, while the levee board declares it was the result of a cut. There have been no additional drownings reported today, but the rumored drowning of five from a bridge in Arkansas was confirmed.

The victims were a mother and four children. It is now believed the vast majority of imperiled people, within reach of Memphis have been rescued. There are about 3,000 of them here. The relief committee today wired Gov. Jones, of Arkansas, for State aid, and urged that he seek federal aid through Arkansas Congressmen. The relief board says it has no funds at its disposal for that purpose, and that he could do nothing to aid the refugees from his State. The Mississippi Valley train south was blocked tonight by a 300-foot washout a few miles out. The War Department notified Capt. Fitch, of the United States Engineering Corps, today that \$10,000 had been assigned to his order for use in maintaining the levees of his district. The river here is still rising. Reports from the levees south tonight are not encouraging. From Helena to Relief, Ark., the levee cannot possibly stand. It is asserted, and from there to Modoc, a distance of thirty-six miles, there is grave danger. In fact, the report from Modoc is that they cannot hold the levee till morning. There was a break of

Continued on Second Page.

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